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UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 06 MINSK 000501

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PHUM PREL BO

SUBJECT: NOVAK POST-ELECTION RESULTS MIRROR THOSE OF
IISEPS: LUKASHENKO WON 54 PERCENT OF VOTE

* Missing Section 001 *

* Missing Section 002 *

* Missing Section 003 *

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Yes, once	11.4
No, not once	59.4

"Where, in your opinion, does the population live better - Belarus or the EU?"

EU	45.8
Belarus	39.5

"Do you ever discuss with your family, friends, and colleagues about how people live in the EU?"

Yes, often	22.4
Yes, sometimes	52.2
No	25.4

"Do you think that you know enough about the EU in order to decide whether Belarus should join the EU? And NATO?"

EU	NATO
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Yes	36.0(%)
No	55.7

"Do you think that one day Belarus will join the EU?"

No, never	31.7
Yes, in no less than 10 years	29.4
Yes, within the next 10 years	13.5

"Name five countries that, in your opinion, are friendly to Belarus and five countries that are not (more than one choice):"

	Friendly	Not Friendly
Russia	85.1(%)	1.4
China	43.1	2.1
Ukraine	24.9	13.5
Kazakhstan	23.2	2.3
Cuba	20.3	2.4
Iran	13.3	9.8
Latvia	9.2	9.2
Iraq	7.9	10.9
North Korea	6.2	2.5
Georgia	4.2	23.8
USA	4.1	74.3
Britain	2.6	21.6
Czech Republic	2.4	4.0

"In the beginning of March, U.S. President George Bush, within the framework of the Belarusian Democracy Act, sent Congress a letter saying President Lukashenko's personal fund receives income from the sale of weapons and suggested Lukashenko's foreign bank accounts be frozen. Some people think this is a good move and others do not. How do you feel about Bush's initiative?"

	%
Positive	28.2
Negative	38.2
I do not care	25.9

"Belarusian television often talks about a conspiracy in which Western countries under U.S. leadership are trying to organize an overthrow of power in Belarus. Do you believe in this conspiracy?"

	%
Yes	41.6
No	47.2

"The EU and U.S. are bringing new sanctions against Belarus' leadership - including visa bans to high-level GOB officials and Lukashenko - who are considered responsible for the falsification of presidential election results and repressions against participants of peaceful demonstrations. Many of our citizens think this is a good move and others do not. What do you think?"

	%
Good	16.5
Bad	53.9
I do not care	22.8

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"More than a thousand demonstrators, most of them young, who protested against the March 19 presidential election results were arrested and sentenced to three to 15 days in jail. The leaders of several European countries announced that if student participants in those demonstrations were expelled from Belarusian universities, then they could continue their studies abroad. What do you think of this announcement?"

	%
I accept it	46.3
I do not accept it	41.6

Russian Union

16. Similar to IISEPS' last survey, Belarusians indicated to NOVAK that they prefer a closer union with Russia to increased relations with the West. A bizarre twist is that many respondents believe it is in Belarus' and Russia's best

interests to let Lukashenko rule over the union state.

"Would you want the USSR resurrected?"

No	63.4
Yes	26.7

"It is possible that Belarus and Russia would soon hold a referendum on the Constitution Act, which would open the path for closer integration of the two governments. How would you vote on this referendum?"

For	%
Against	37.8
Will not vote	14.8
Depends on the circumstances	7.1
	36.4

"Many people in Belarus and Russia believe it would be better for both countries if they united and Lukashenko became the leader of the combined governments. What do you think?"

I would like this	%
It does not concern me	35.5
I would not want this	17.4
	36.0

"What is the historical path, in your opinion, of Belarus? Of Russia?"

	Belarus	Russia
General path of European civilization	-----	-----
A return to the Soviet path	17.3(%)	29.5
Its own, unique path	25.5	19.2
	56.8	51.2

Gas Price Increases

¶ 7. Many respondents claimed that a rise in Russian natural gas prices would not destroy the Belarusian economy, but the majority view GAZPROM's price hike negatively and even more would disapprove of a Russian takeover of Belarus' gas transport industry.

"At the end of March, the head of Russia's GAZPROM A. Miller announced that beginning in 2007 Belarus would pay European prices for natural gas - a five-fold increase. What do you think of this demand?"

The prices are fair. We need to pay the true price for goods	%
The prices are not fair. Russia is a close ally and should not demand such a high price from Belarus	30.8
	61.3

"In your opinion, in what conditions would it be worth it for Belarus to sell its gas transport system Beltransgaz?"

Beltransgaz should not be sold under any circumstance	%
It can be sold for market price	82.0
	16.9

"With which line do you agree with?"

Belarus- an abundant country with an economy that would survive even after Russia raises gas prices	%
	53.6

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If Russia raises gas prices to European levels, the Belarusian economy will collapse

45.5

Surveys and Information

18. "In the last year have you become familiar with (through the press, leaflets, conversations with colleagues) results of independent surveys of society's opinion?"

Yes 21.7
No 73.9

"Do you use the internet?"

	%
Yes, daily	5.0
Yes, several times a week	8.0
Yes, several times a month	7.7
Yes, several times a year	6.4
No	68.8

"What sites do you visit the most?"

	%
Russian	19.7
Belarusian	17.2
European	9.2

"What language do you use in daily conversations?"

	%
Belarus	3.8
Russian	62.2
Russian and Belarusian	12.7
A mix of both	21.0
Krol	